

AIAA Alabama-Mississippi Section  
**December Dinner Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, December 9, 2004

**Time:** Social Hour at 6:15pm. Dinner at 7:00pm

**Location:**

**Holiday Inn at Research Park**

5903 University Drive NW. Huntsville, Alabama

(in front of Madison Square Mall)

**Cost:** \$20.00 (\$15.00 for students)

**For reservations, contact:**

**Mr. Kevin Higdon**

E-mail: kevin.higdon@kph-research.com

Telephone: 256-679-3143

***Please make reservations (or cancellations) by 12:00 noon  
on Tuesday, December 7.***



***Our Speaker:***

**Mr. Robert L. Sackheim**

**Assistant Director and Chief Engineer for Propulsion**

**NASA - Marshall Space Flight Center**

***The Topic:***

## **New Technology Direction to Enable the Exploration Vision**

Robert L. Sackheim, the Assistant Director and Chief Engineer for Propulsion at NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), holds a B.S. degree from the University of Virginia and a M.S. degree from Columbia University. He has completed all doctoral coursework in chemical engineering at the University of California in Los Angeles. He joined MSFC after 35 years in various technical and management positions with TRW Space and Electronics Group.

Mr. Sackheim's awards and honors include the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive Service, and the AIAA James Wyld Award for outstanding technical contributions to the field of rocket propulsion, as well as 12 NASA Group Achievement Awards. While at TRW he received three annual Chairmen's Awards and a TRW patent of the year award. He is a fellow of AIAA and was elected in 2000 to the National Academy of Engineering. He also received the AIAA Sustained Service Award in 2000. The Alabama-Mississippi Section of the AIAA has awarded him the Martin Schilling Award (2001) for "Outstanding Service to the Section", the Herman Oberth Award (2002) for "Outstanding Individual Scientific Achievement in the Fields of Astronautics and Space Sciences", and the Holger Toftoy Award (2003) for "Outstanding Technical Management in the Field of Aeronautics and Astronautics". He also received an award from the Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics of France for "High Quality Contributions to the Propulsion Field". In 2001 he was awarded the NASA Medal for outstanding technical leadership.

Mr. Sackheim was formerly the chairman of the AIAA Liquid Propulsion Technical Committee and the chairman of the Los Angeles Section of the AIAA, and is a former chairman of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the AIAA. He has served on a number of NASA boards, including the Shuttle Independent Assessment Team (SIAT), the Mars Climate Orbiter Mishap Investigation Board, and the Mars Polar Lander Mishap Board. He has authored more than 150 technical papers. He also holds eight patents for spacecraft and/or launch vehicle propulsion and/or control systems technology.